

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/824,881

Examiner

Chih-Cheng Glen Kao

Applicant(s)

SAITOH ET AL.

Art Unit

2882

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 2/16/07.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-6, 14-19 and 21-31.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

1. Claims 1-6, 14-19, and 21-31 are allowed. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance.

2. Regarding claim 1, prior art fails to disclose or fairly suggest a particulate matter analyzer, including a composition analyzing unit for analyzing composition of particulate matter while on a filter, where the measurement of mass and analysis of composition are performed on the same collected particulate matter on the filter within the particulate matter analyzer, in combination with all the limitations in the claim. Claims 2-6 and 21-23 are allowed by virtue of their dependency.

3. Regarding claim 14, prior art fails to disclose or fairly suggest a system for collecting particulate matter in a fluid and analyzing mass of the particulate matter and its composition, including a composition analyzing unit for analyzing the composition of the particulate matter while on a filter member, a transporting unit for moving one of a plurality of filters from a sample fluid supplying unit to respectively a mass measuring unit and the composition analyzing unit, and a controller unit for automatically enabling a collecting unit, mass measuring unit, composition analyzing unit, and transporting unit, wherein a plurality of measurements with a plurality of filter members are carried out on the particulate matter over a predetermined time period, in combination with all the limitations in the claim. Claims 15-19 and 24-26 are allowed by virtue of their dependency.

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4. Regarding claim 27, prior art fails to disclose or fairly suggest a particulate matter analyzer, including a composition analyzing unit for analyzing composition of the particulate matter as deposited on a filter member, and a controller unit for automatically enabling a collecting unit, a mass measuring unit, the composition analyzing unit, and a transporting unit to perform a plurality of measurements on a series of predetermined lengths of the filter member automatically over a predetermined time period without an operator, in combination with all the limitations in the claim. Claims 28-31 are allowed by virtue of their dependency.

5. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Drawings

6. The drawings were received on February 16, 2007. These drawings are acceptable.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Chih-Cheng Glen Kao whose telephone number is (571) 272-2492. The examiner can normally be reached on M - F (9 am to 5 pm).

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ed Glick can be reached on (571) 272-2490. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



gk



EDWARD J. GLICK
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER